

**(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau**



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 1040 1

**(43) International Publication Date**  
**13 September 2001 (13.09.2001)**

**PCT**

**(10) International Publication Number**  
**WO 01/65995 A2**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: A61B (74) Agents: PEARL, Zeev et al.; Eitan, Pearl, Latzer & Cohen-Zedek, 2 Gav Yam Center, 7 Shenkar Street, 46725 Herzlia (IL).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/IL01/00218

(22) International Filing Date: 8 March 2001 (08.03.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: 60/187,883 8 March 2000 (08.03.2000) US

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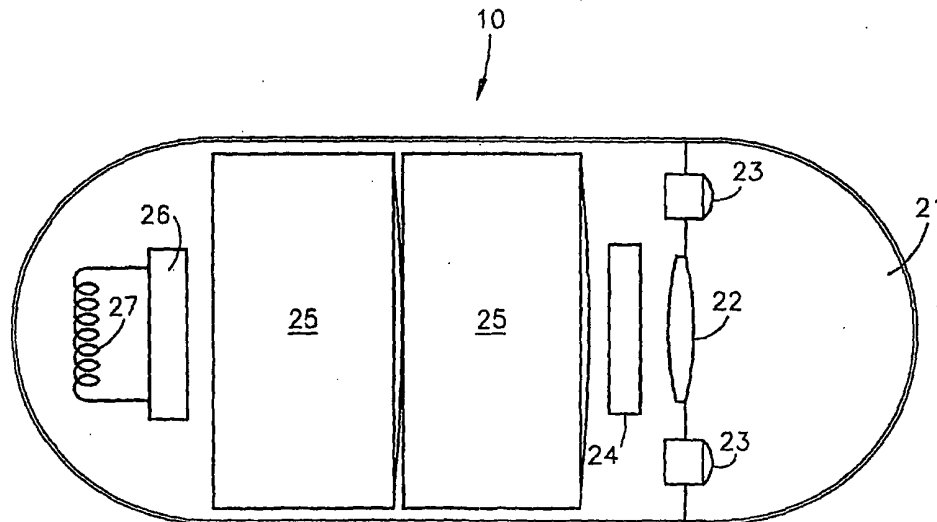
(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KB, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KB, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published: — without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

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(54) Title: A DEVICE AND SYSTEM FOR IN VIVO IMAGING



**(57) Abstract:** The present invention provides a system and method for obtaining in vivo images. The system contains an imaging system and an ultra low power radio frequency transmitter for transmitting signals from the CMOS imaging camera to a receiving system located outside a patient. The imaging system includes at least one CMOS imaging camera, at least one illumination source for illuminating an in vivo site and an optical system for imaging the in vivo site onto the CMOS imaging camera.

**WO 01/65995 A2**



*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**A DEVICE AND SYSTEM FOR IN VIVO IMAGING****FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to an in vivo imaging device and system such as for imaging the digestive tract.

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**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Among known in vivo measuring systems are endoscopes, which are often utilized to provide images of the upper or lower gastro-intestinal tract. However, endoscopes do not provide views of the entire length of the small intestines. Additionally, they are uncomfortable, may cause damage to the patient and are complex to operate.

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Swallowable electronic capsules which are moved through the digestive tract through the action of digestion and which collect data and transmit the data to a receiver system are known, one such example is the "Heidelberg" capsule. Yet another example is a capsule disclosed in US 5,604,531. These capsules may be utilized to measure pH, temperature and pressure throughout the intestines.

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### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The device and system of the present invention enable obtaining in vivo images from within body lumens or cavities, such as images of the entire length of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. The device and system contain an imaging system that includes a  
5 complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) imaging camera. The device also contains an ultra low power radio frequency (RF) transmitter for transmitting signals from the CMOS imaging camera to a receiving system.

The CMOS imaging camera is an ultra low power imager, has low sensitivity to the red spectrum and is provided in chip scale packaging (CSP). The transmitter is an ultra  
10 low power RF transmitter with high bandwidth input, possibly provided in chip scale packaging.

The high integration and low power consumption achieved by the imaging system of the device and system of the invention were unobtainable prior to the advances in CMOS technology. Further, an ultra low power, high bandwidth input transmitter for video  
15 signals is unknown in the art. Also, an RF product in CSP has not been previously disclosed in the art.

Further, the imaging system may utilize a white light emitting diode (LED) as a light source rather than a reddish incandescence miniature bulb or an RGB LED presently used in the art. The white LED enables to produce a higher quality and more pleasant to the  
20 eye image.

There is therefore provided, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, an in vivo imaging device. The device consists of at least one imaging system for producing video output, preferably digital output, and a transmitter which transmits the video output to a receiving system.

The imaging system includes a CMOS imaging camera, at least one illumination source for illuminating an in vivo site and an optical system for imaging the in vivo site onto the CMOS imaging camera.

The illumination source may be a white LED. The term "white LED" as referred to herein relates to a combination of a blue LED chip (emitting light in the blue spectrum range) and a refracting crystal. The blue LED chip is encapsulated within the refracting crystal such that blue light incident on the crystal is emitted in different spectrums, resulting in white light. The white light emitted from the refracting crystal has a small fraction of red light and an even smaller, almost nonexistent, fraction of infra red (IR) light.

The illumination source may be a specific integrated light source in which a refracting crystal matrix has a plurality of blue LED chips integrated therein.

The components of the device are harbored in a housing having an optical window. The housing is configured for being inserted and passing through body lumens or cavities.

Also provided, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, is a system for in vivo imaging, which includes an imaging system producing video output, preferably digital output, a transmitter which transmits the video output of the imaging system and a receiving system for receiving the transmitted video output. The imaging system consists of a CMOS imaging camera, an illumination source for illuminating an in vivo site and an optical system for imaging the in vivo site onto the CMOS imaging camera.

The system may further comprise an antenna array capable of surrounding a body and comprising one or a plurality of antennas for receiving the transmitted video output and for producing a plurality of received signals. Also the system may include a demodulator capable of transforming the plurality of received video signals into a single video

datastream. The system may also comprise a data processing system which generates tracking and video data from the single datastream.

The receiving system and data processor are typically located outside a patient.

Optionally, the system can also include an apparatus for operating the transmitter  
5 intermittently.

In one embodiment of the invention, the device is a swallowable capsule having an optical window and containing an imaging system for obtaining in vivo images of the entire length of the GI tract and a transmitter which transmits the obtained images to a receiving system.

10 The imaging system consists of a CMOS imaging camera, a white LED and a lens for imaging a GI tract site onto the CMOS imaging camera. The swallowable capsule also includes a contained energy source for providing energy the entirety of the electrical elements of the capsule.

Also provided in accordance with an embodiment of the invention is a transmitter  
15 for transmitting signals on RF to a receiving system. The transmitter, which is controlled by a normally opened (NO) switch, includes a control block for controlling the illumination and imager of the device of the invention.

The NO switch is controlled by an external magnet that keeps the switch closed while it is in proximity to the switch. However, an internal block maintains the logistics of  
20 an open switch, so as to keep the transmitter circuits and all capsule main subsystems inactive while the external magnet is present. Removal of the external magnet causes the switch to open and the internal block to close, thereby allowing the transmitter circuits and capsule main subsystems to be activated.

Further provided is a method for obtaining images in vivo. The method includes the steps of: illuminating a site in vivo; collecting remitted light onto pixels of a CMOS imaging camera, thereby generating an analog signal; processing and converting the analog signal to a digital signal; randomizing the digital signal; transmitting the digital signal to a  
5 receiving system; and processing the transmitted signals to obtain images of the in vivo site.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be understood and appreciated more fully from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic longitudinal cross section illustration of an in vivo imaging device according to an embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 is a schematic presentation of the CMOS imaging camera according to an embodiment of the invention;

Figure 3 is a cross section schematic illustration of a device, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, including a specific integrated illumination source;

Figure 4 is a block diagram of the transmitter in accordance with an embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 5 is a block diagram presentation of the method according to an embodiment of the invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The device and system of the invention are utilized for viewing inside body lumens and cavities and for transmitting at least video data.

Reference is now made to Fig.1 which illustrates the device and its components, according to an embodiment of the invention. The device 10 typically comprises an optical window 21 and an imaging system for obtaining images from inside a body lumen, such as the GI tract. The imaging system includes an illumination source 23, such as a white LED, a CMOS imaging camera 24, which detects the images and an optical system 22 which focuses the images onto the CMOS imaging camera 24. The illumination source 23 illuminates the inner portions of the body lumen through optical window 21. Device 10



further includes a transmitter 26 and an antenna 27 for transmitting the video signal of the CMOS imaging camera 24, and a power source 25, such as a silver oxide battery, that provides power to the electrical elements of the device 10.

5 It will be appreciated that a plurality of CMOS imaging cameras may be used in the device and system of the invention. Each CMOS imaging camera may include its own optical system and either one or more illumination sources, in accordance with specific requirements of the device or system.

Images obtained by the CMOS camera 24 are transmitted to a receiving system (not shown), which may also include a data processing unit. The receiving system and data  
10 processing unit are typically located outside a patient.

The device 10 is capsule shaped, can be easily swallowed and may passively pass through the entire GI tract, pushed along by natural peristalsis.

Nonetheless, it should be appreciated that the device may be of any shape suitable for being inserted into and passing through a body lumen or cavity. Furthermore, the device  
15 of the invention may be attached or affixed on to an instrument that is inserted into body lumens and cavities, such as on an endoscope, laparoscope, stent, needle, catheter etc.

Thus, the device may be introduced into a body lumen or cavity by swallowing, by using an endoscopic device, by surgery and so on.

A suitable CMOS imaging camera 24 is, for example, a "camera on a chip" type  
20 CMOS imager specified by Given Imaging Ltd. of Yokneam, Israel and designed by Photobit Corporation of California, USA, with integrated active pixel and post processing circuitry (as will be further described with reference to Fig. 2). The single chip camera can provide either black and white or color signals.

The CMOS imaging camera 24 is designed such that it is less sensitive to light in the red spectrum than known CMOS cameras.

The optical system 22 comprises at least one lens and optionally mirrors and/or prisms for collecting and collimating remitted light on to the pixels of the CMOS imaging camera 24. Typically, the optical system comprises an aspherical focussing lens. A suitable lens is, for example, the lens designed by Given Imaging Ltd. of Yokneam, Israel, in accordance with specific object plane, distortion and resolution parameters.

Illumination source 23, transmits illumination to the walls of the body lumen via the optical window 21. The lens of the optical system 22 then focuses remittent light onto the pixels of the CMOS imaging camera 24.

A single or plurality of light sources or a specific integrated light source may be used and positioned in accordance with specific imaging requirements, such as to avoid stray light etc. Also, the optical window 21 may be positioned and shaped according to the device shape and according to specific imaging requirements. For example, optimized imaging conditions can be obtained when optical window 21 is formed to define an ellipsoid shaped dome and the CMOS imaging chip camera system 24 and illumination sources 23 are positioned in the proximity of the focal plane of the shape defined by the optical dome. Obtaining the above imaging conditions is described in WO 00/76391, which is assigned to the common assignees of the present invention and which is hereby incorporated in its entirety by reference.

The in vivo sites imaged in the present invention are usually very close to the imager. For example, an 11 x 30mm capsule passing through and imaging the small intestine, images the intestine walls from a very short distance. It is therefore possible to

satisfy the illumination requirements of the imaging process utilizing solid state illumination sources, such as LEDs.

In an embodiment of the invention the illumination source is a white LED. The white light emitted from the white LED has a small fraction of red light and even smaller  
5 fraction of IR light. Hence, a white LED is beneficial for use with silicone based image sensors (such as CMOS imaging cameras) because of the silicone sensitivity to red and IR light.

In a system which includes the CMOS imaging camera of the invention with its reduced sensitivity to light in the red spectrum and a white LED illumination source, no IR  
10 reject filters (photopic filters) are needed.

A suitable transmitter may comprise a modulator which receives the video signal (either digital or analog) from the CMOS imaging camera, a radio frequency (RF) amplifier, an impedance matcher and an antenna. The transmitter will be further illustrated in Fig. 4.

15 Other optional parts of the system as well as the method for localization of a capsule containing the system within the digestive system may be similar to those described in US 5,604,531 (which is assigned to the common assignees of the present invention and which is hereby incorporated in its entirety by reference).

20 Device 10 can additionally include sensor elements for measuring pH, temperature, pressure, etc. These sensor elements, some of which are described in the prior art, may be any element suitable for measuring conditions prevailing in the body lumen (for example, the digestive system) and that are capable of being appended to or included in the device.

Reference is now made to Fig. 2, in which a schematic layout of the CMOS imaging camera is presented. The CMOS imaging camera 200 comprises active pixel and post processing circuitry on a single chip. The CMOS imaging camera 200 includes photo cell 202 (the pixels of the CMOS imaging camera), correlated double sampler (CDS) 204, analog to digital (A/D) converter 206, encoding and randomizing unit 208 and timing generator 210 for control and synchronization of the circuitry elements.

Light collected by an optical system is directed onto CMOS imaging camera 200 and photons are converted to electrons as the light is absorbed by photo cell 202. Electrons are converted to electrical current and an analog signal is produced by the active pixel circuitry. The analog signal is conveyed for further processing by on-chip post processing circuitry. The signal is further processed by CDS 204. CDS 204 performs correlated double sampling, for canceling noise and signal shaping before conveying the signal to the A/D converter 206. The A/D converter 206 is a serial output A/D converted which enables serial, low power transmission of signals. The signal is converted into a digital signal and is further conveyed to encoding and randomizing unit 208 for defining frame and row parameters (encoding) and for priming the signals for transmission (randomizing). The encoding and randomizing unit 208 randomizes the occurrence of the digital "0" and "1" signals such that transmission is not impeded by a reoccurring signal of one type.

The CMOS imaging camera 200 is specified by Given Imaging Ltd. of Yokneam, Israel and designed by Photobit Corporation of California, USA, according to a specification adjusted to in vivo imaging. The CMOS imaging chip has ultra low power requirements (less than 3 milliwatts). The dynamics of the increase of dark current generated by the imaging camera, as a function of temperature, is less than that of solid state devices known in the art, such that at 37°C a low fraction of the out put video signal is

dark current. Further, as discussed above, the imaging camera has reduced sensitivity to light in the red spectrum, abating the need for photopic filters.

Reference is now made to Fig. 3 in which a device for in vivo imaging comprising a specific integrated light source is illustrated. Device 300 comprises CMOS imaging camera 302, an optical system (not shown) for imaging in vivo images onto the CMOS imaging camera 302 and an integrated light source 304 for illuminating a site in vivo. The device 300 further includes a transmitter 305 for transmitting video data from the imaging camera 302 to a receiver (not shown). The transmitter 305 generates a high voltage and current source for the light source 304. The integrated light source 304 is connected to the transmitter 305 through connective wires 301. The electrical components of the device are powered by a battery contained within the device (not shown).

The integrated light source 304 comprises a strip 306 of a refracting crystal matrix encircling the CMOS imaging camera 302. Blue LED chips 308, encapsulated within the refracting crystal matrix of strip 306, are positioned along the strip 306 such that illumination is provided in a ring around the CMOS imaging camera 302.

Blue LED chips 308 can also be sprinkled throughout the strip 306 such that the whole strip 306 emits light.

Reference is now made to Fig. 4 in which a block diagram of the transmitter is illustrated. The transmitter 400, an ASIC (application specific integrated circuit) designed to fulfill international communication standards (such as the FCC) standards, operates on a minimum shift keying (MSK) modulation system to effect transmitting of digital signals through antenna 426 and 427 on radio frequencies to a receiving system. The transmitter 400 also controls the illumination and imager of the device of the invention and the logical conversion of the switch (as described above). The transmitter 400 includes a one time

programming unit 408 in communication with external programming input 428, a control logic block 401 for communicating with the imager, a phase lock loop (PLL) 402 in communication with modulator 425, optionally, a LED power and control block 403 for controlling the illumination, a main oscillator 404 and a switch 405 which controls an  
5 internal electronic switch 406.

The control logic block 401 communicates with the imager, reads preprogrammed parameters and performs the interface to the "outside" world in the programming mode. Control logic block 401 maintains a master clock, is synchronized by bit rate data 412 and frame rate 413, and through control 411, which is generated by the imager, triggers LED  
10 power and control block 403. Control logic block 401 further controls the master clock 414 and the imager shutdown 415.

During shutdown the transmitter sends out beacon signals only. The shutdown enables economic use of the device's power supply. For example, in a device designed for imaging the small intestine, the transmitter 400 may be programmed to include a two hour  
15 delay, during which period shutdown of the imager and other device electronics is effected. Two hours is approximately the time it takes a swallowable device to pass the stomach and enter the small intestine, in particular patients. Thus, in those patients, the device will utilize power from the battery, for collecting images, only when the device has reached the small intestine.

20 The PLL 402 is a feedback system intended to automatically correct drifts in the transmitted frequency. PLL 402 includes a pre-scaler 424 for fast frequency dividing that is not dependant on the channel frequency. The pre-scaler 424 is in communication with a divider 421 that divides the frequency of the oscillator 404 to perform the reference frequency for the PLL. The division value is channel dependant. The PLL 402 also includes

a phase frequency detector (PFD) 422 for performing the frequency comparison and the phase comparison of the PLL, and a charge pump 423 for performing the shape of the loop transmission of the whole loop.

5 LED power and control block 403 includes a high voltage source 432 that is controlled by the external capacitor 431. LED power and control block 403 also includes a high current source 433 and the peak current value of the LEDs is controlled by the resistor which is connected to LedRes 435.

10 The transmitter 400 is controlled by an external magnetic switch 405. The switch 405 is a normally opened (NO) switch that is kept closed by an external magnet, as described above. Switch 405 controls an internal electronic switch 406 that controls all the device electronics. Electronic switch 406 includes a low leakage circuitry to convert the logic of the NO switch 405 to "normally closed" (NC) logic, such that although switch 405 is a NO switch it will keep the transmitter inactive while it is closed.

15 The low leakage circuit only uses 1% - 3% of the battery power per year, so that the internal electronic switch 406 is not a significant factor in the power regimen of the device.

20 In an embodiment of the invention the device is a swallowable capsule having an optical window and comprising a CMOS imaging camera, white LEDs, an optical system, a transmitter and battery. The swallowable capsule is kept inactive while contained in a package having a magnet, such as the magnetic packaging described in PCT application IL00/00752 (which is assigned to the common assignee of the present invention and which is hereby incorporated in its entirety by reference). Just prior to use the package having the magnet is removed enabling the switch 405 to be opened, thereby activating the transmitter and with it, initiating imager and illumination operation.

The input bandwidth of the information in the transmitter 400 is over 1.35Megabit per second. Such a low powered high input bandwidth transmitter for transmitting video data, has not yet been shown in the art.

Reference is now made to Fig. 5 in which a block diagram of the method of the invention is illustrated. The method for in vivo imaging includes the following steps: illuminating a site in vivo (502); collecting remitted light onto pixels of a CMOS imaging camera, thereby generating an analog signal (504); converting the analog signal to a digital signal (506); randomizing the digital signal (508); transmitting the digital signal to a receiving system (510) and processing the transmitted signals to obtain images of the in vivo site (512).

The step of illumination (502) is preferably carried out by employing white LEDs to illuminate the site in vivo. Illumination may be continuous or alternating in accordance with specific requirements of the system.

Collecting light remitted from the site in vivo (504) and directing it on to the pixels of a CMOS imaging chip is achieved by employing an optical system which comprises a lens and which may further comprise any suitable collimator.

Conversion of the analog signal to a digital signal (506) is preferably effected in a serial manner.

Randomizing the digital signal (508), namely randomizing the occurrence of the digital signals ("0" and "1"), is performed so that transmission is not impeded by a reoccurring signal of one type.

Transmission of the signal (510) is accomplished using radio frequencies (approximately 432 - 434 Mhz) at a rate of two to eight frames per second to an array of antennas attached to a patient's body. The antennas allow image capture and are also used



to calculate and indicate the position of the imager in the patient's body. An example of the calculation and indication the position of the imager in the patient's body is provided in the above mentioned US 5,604,531.

5 Processing of signals (512) can be carried out by employing suitable processors and software. For example, the RAPID software (propriety software developed and owned by Given Imaging Ltd. of Yokneam, Israel) is used to obtain a video clip of images captured from within the GI tract. The video clip can be synchronized with the trajectory of the imaging device as it passes through the GI tract to enable localization of the device in the GI tract.

10 Additionally, a plurality of receiving antennas can be used which can be moved to the location enabling best receiving conditions.

The images can be stored on a small portable recorder carried on a belt and subsequently downloaded for analysis and retrieval. Additionally, the receiver can be connected directly to a stationary data recorder.

15 Experiments were carried out with an 11 x 30 mm capsule comprising a CMOS imaging chip and miniature processor, white LED light sources, a short focal length lens and a miniature transmitter and antenna. The capsule, powered by silver oxide batteries, was swallowed and more than 5 hours of continuous recording of images from the gastrointestinal tract were achieved.

20 Live transmission of good quality video images were obtained for up to 6 hour periods in ambulatory dogs.

With ethical committee approval a human volunteer study was performed. The capsule was easily swallowed. Moving images were obtained from the stomach and small